

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /104 W
-----004461 130821Z /17

R 121620Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5868
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0476

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, ET, SO, NI, OAU
SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR MEDIATION OF THE HORN CONFLICT

REF: LAGOS 13134 (NOTAL)

1. DCM CALLED ON DR. FAFOWARA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN DEPARTMENT IN MEA, JANUARY 12 TO DISCUSS PROSPECTS FOR MEDIATION OF THE
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ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA CONFLICT. FAFOWARA SAID THAT PRESIDENT TOLBERT OF LIBERIA HAD RECENTLY SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMISSION OF GOOD OFFICES ESTABLISHED BY THE OAU TO DEAL WITH THE CONFLICT IN THE HORN SHOULD INVITE THE ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI GOVERNMENTS TO MEET WITH IT TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES OF REACHING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO SEND LETTERS "WITHIN A FORTNIGHT" TO THE SEVEN OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE

MEMBERS OF THE GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY FAVOR SENDING AN INVITATION TO THDISOMALI AND ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENTS TO ATTEND SUCH A MEETING IN LAGOS, PROBABLY IN FEBRUARY. FAFOWARA COMMENTED THAT MEDIATION PROSPECTS MAY BE SOMEWHAT BETTER NOW THAT THE MILITARY TIDE APPEARS ABOUT TO TURN IN THE OGADEN; SOMALIA MAY SOON BE MORE INCLINED TO WITHDRAW.

2. FAFOWARA OBSERVED THAT THE AFRICAN STATES GENERALLY SIDE WITH ETHIOPIA ON THIS QUESPION AND BELIEVE THAT SOMALIA SHOULD SIMPLY WITHDRAW. HE SAID THE FMG AGREES WITH THIS VIEWPOINT BUT HAS NOT INTENTION OF SAYING SO BECAUSE OF ITS POSITION AS CHAIRMAN OF THE GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION. WHEN THE DCM MENTIONED TO HIM THAT SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE THE EVENTUAL SOLUTION MIGHT BE A GRAND CONFEDERATION INVOLVING ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE HORN, HE SAID THIS WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION IN HIS VIEW BECAUSE OF THE DEPTH OF THE ANTAGONISM BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA.

3. FAFOWARA MENTIONED THAT SOME RUMORS ARE GOING AROUND THAT THE US IS TRYING TO RIGHT THE MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. DCM ASSURED HIM THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE. DCM ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE USG CONTINUES TO SUPPORT FULLY THE CONCEPT OF OAU MEDIATION AND WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS FROM THE FMG AS TO HOW IT COULD SUPPORT THAT MEDIATION EFFORT.

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4. WE WILL REPORT WHEN POSSIBLE ON PROGRESS IN THE APPROACHES TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION.
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